

**REMARKS**

The Office Action dated 20 July 2005 has been reviewed, and the comments of the U.S. Patent Office have been considered. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 2, 11, and 15 have been amended, and claims 3-10, 12, 13, and 15-21 remain as originally filed. Thus, claims 1-13 and 15-21 are respectfully submitted for consideration by the Examiner.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. By this amendment, claims 2, 11, and 15 have been rewritten in independent form and should be allowable. Claims 3-9 and 16-21 depend from one of independent claims 2 and 15 and therefore are also allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claims 2 and 15, respectively, as well as for their additionally recited features.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Figure 4 as being too dark. Submitted under separate cover is a Submission of Drawing Replacement Sheet, which overcomes the objection raised by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner also objected to claim 1 for failing to include the article "a" before sensor. Claim 1 has been amended to correct this informality. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 01/77514 to Perry ("Perry") and claims 1, 10, and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,706,855 to Heiniger ("Heiniger") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,570,015 to Takaishi et al. ("Takaishi").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of independent claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a fuel vapor pressure management apparatus of a fuel system supplying fuel to an internal combustion engine, the fuel vapor pressure management apparatus performing leak detection on a headspace of the fuel system, performing excess negative pressure relief of the headspace, and performing excess positive pressure relief of the headspace. The apparatus includes, *inter alia*, "a housing defining an interior chamber, the interior chamber being in fluid communication with the headspace." Support for the combination of limitations may be found in Figures 1 and 2 of the present application. *See also*

paragraph [0028] of Applicants original specification. Neither Heiniger nor Takaishi teach or suggest the claimed apparatus including an interior chamber in fluid communication of a headspace of a fuel system. Specifically, Heiniger discloses a device for monitoring the valve stroke of a valve and Takaishi discloses a linear positional placement detector. Neither reference discloses that the device or detector are part of a fuel vapor pressure management apparatus. For these reasons the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 10, 12, and 13 depend from independent claim 1 and therefore are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for their additionally recited features.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this reply, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the application.

**EXCEPT** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-1641. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 21, 2005  
**Heller Ehrman LLP**  
1717 Rhode Island Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Telephone: (202) 912-2000  
Facsimile: (202) 912-2020

Chad D. Wells  
Chad D. Wells  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No.: 50,875  
  
Customer No. 26633